Movie Night

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Category: Fairy Tail
Genre: Humor, Romance
Language: English
Characters: Gray F., Natsu D., Team Natsu
Pairings: Gray F./Natsu D.
Status: Completed
Published: 2016-04-15 20:24:03
Updated: 2016-04-15 20:24:03
Packaged: 2016-04-27 17:27:42
Rating: K+
Chapters: 1
Words: 3,089
Publisher: www.fanfiction.net
Summary: Downtime for Natsu after an injury results in a team movie night, and a bet between him and a certain Ice mage .Written for Gratsu Fluff Fest 2016. Day 6 Prompt: Sleepy

Movie Night

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Written for Gratsu Fluff Week 2016 on Tumblr.

Day 6 Prompt: Sleepy

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Gray grumbled under his breath as he heard the doorbell ringing and for a moment he seriously considered ignoring it, after all the most important person was currently sprawled dozing in his lap and he wasn't really in the mood for other company. However, the bell rang again a moment later and Natsu shifted in his lap, olive eyes blinking open and he caught the wince that passed over his mate's face before the Dragon-slayer was able to mask it and he rubbed comfortingly at the warm arm pressing against his stomach.

"How areâ€¦?" He was cut off by the bell ringing several times in quick succession and they shared a worried look, well aware that there was only one person who would be that impatient, and Gray groaned before slipping out from under the Dragon-slayer, ignoring the disgruntled look he received as he tucked the blankets in around Natsu. "Don't move," he growled warningly, catching the spark that had appeared in the Fire mage's eyes now that Natsu was fully aware, and the sulky look that met his words confirmed his suspicions that the idiot had been contemplating making a run from it the moment he had his back turned. "Pleaseâ€¦I don't want another trip to the

doctors." In all honesty it wasn't the trip that bothered him, it was the thought of Natsu either injuring himself again or prolonging the pain he was already inâ€¦apparently the concern had leaked through as Natsu huffed out a sigh.

"I'll stay put," He promised meeting the Ice mage's gaze without hesitating, and offering him a small smile when he saw some of the tension leak out of Gray's shoulders. "You better get that before you lose your front door," he added as the doorbell went yet again, and Gray paled at the thought of it, turning and hurrying towards the front hall with a muttered.

"Yeah, yeah.

Yanking the door open with more force than necessary he came up short, blinking in surprise as he found himself face to face with Erza, Lucy and Happy. All three of them seemed to be heavily laden with bags of shopping, and the Requip mage seemed to be carrying what looked like a large cushion and he frowned in confusion as he stared at it for a moment, only to flinch when Erza cleared her throat loudly and he hastily lifted his gaze to meet hers.

"What's going on?" He asked.

"Film night," Erza replied, holding up a couple of films that they had been talking about watching a couple of weeks ago and he blinked again. Whilst it was a nice idea, he wasn't really in the mood for hanging out and he opened his mouth intending to say just that when she continued. "We thought that you two might be going stir crazy by now, plus we wanted to check on him."

"We've not been that bad," Gray muttered, slightly offended by the surprised expressions on their faces at his wordsâ€¦although to be fair he was a little bit surprised that they hadn't driven each other up the wall by now, though that might have something to do with the fact that Natsu was still spending copious amounts of time fast asleep. However, suddenly the idea of company looked a little more appealing, beside after hearing the concern in her voice he couldn't really send them off without giving them a chance to see Natsu, and he sighed slightly before stepping back and waving them into the house as he added quietly. "Come on inside then, although I have to warn you that he'll probably fall asleep before we're even halfway through the movie." _Probably soonerâ€¦_he amended, aware that Natsu had been very close to falling into a deeper sleep just before the bell had disturbed them and he knew that it wouldn't take the Fire mage long to get back to that point.

"Is he okay?" Lucy asked with a worried frown.

"He's on the mendâ€¦slowly," Gray replied, closing the door behind them and leading them towards the living room. "You know how he is, he absolutely hates just lying around and doing nothing and he keeps trying to push himself too hard." The idiot had already managed to tear his stitches twice through his stupidity, and the hospital had threatened to keep him in if it happened again and he was hoping that the threat would help convince Natsu to behaveâ€¦at least Wendy and Porlyusica were supposed to be back in the next couple of days from the conference they had been attending Crocus, and they'd be able to sort Natsu out properly.

"That sounds like him," Erza muttered.

"Aye," Happy agreed with a long-suffering sigh, sharing a weak grin with the Ice mage. The Exceed had been alternating between spending time with them, and time with the girls for the past week and he had witnessed more than one of the arguments where the Ice mage was struggling to keep his boyfriend on bed rest.

"I can hear you," Natsu pointed out sounding somewhat cranky as they stepped into the living room, although he promptly brightened at the sight of them, a broad grin spreading across his face as he tried to push himself upright. "Hey guys!"

"Natsu!" Gray scolded as he rushed to his side, just in time to stop the idiot from toppling off the sofa as his body reminded him that moving really wasn't a good idea at the moment. Despite the angry expression on his face, his hands were gentle as he helped the Fire mage lean back against the sofa, checking the bandages for any sign of fresh blood before letting out a relieved sigh. "Please be more carefulâ€¦"

"Sorry," Natsu looked properly contrite as he caught the worry in the dark eyes, and he reached out to grasp the Ice mage's hand and pressed a gentle kiss to it. "I got ahead of myselfâ€¦" Gray blushed slightly at the silly gesture, but his expression softened, well aware that Natsu was used to just bouncing back from his injuries and that being bed bound for over a week was driving him mad.

"Just be careful," he sighed, gently squeezing the warm fingers before stepping back and letting Erza and the others get their first good look at the Fire mage since their last visit a couple of days ago.

The Dragon-slayer had regained some strength since then, and the grin on his face was as bright as ever. However, despite that he still looked awful, his usually tanned skin drained of colour and despite all the sleep he had been getting there were dark shadows under his eyes. Now that he had sat up, the blankets he had been buried over spooling around his waist they could clearly see the bandages wrapped around his torso, hiding the source of the problem from view. The wound itself stretched from his left side just below the shoulder down and around to the middle of his stomach, a lucky blow that one of the bandits had managed to land whilst the Fire mage was distracted by Gray being flung through a wall. It wasn't as deep as they'd originally feared and it shouldn't have been so problematic, apart from the blade had carried a strange poison that had reacted badly with Natsu's draconic magic, and was currently preventing the wound from healing properlyâ€¦they just hoped that Porlyusica would know what to do, or that Wendy's Sky magic would be able to overcome it.

"It's not as bad as it looks," Natsu tried to reassure them as he caught the worried expressions on their faces, but his efforts were somewhat ruined as he shifted slightly, wincing as even that movement sent a flash of pain across his stomach. Determined not to let them remain focused on him he turned his attention towards Erza. "I heard something about a movie night?"

"If you're up to itâ€¦" Erza was more hesitant about her suggestion now that she had got a good look at Natsu, and the Dragon-slayer

sighed before scowling at her.

"I'm capable of watching a movieâ€¦"

"Sure you are," Gray muttered before smirking down at the Dragon-slayer, unfazed by the fact that the scowl was now directed at him, knowing that his next words would cheer his boyfriend up. "My bet is you'll be asleep before the openings even finished." Just as he'd expected the olive eyes lit up at the challenge, the scowl immediately fading as Natsu cautiously straightened, his previous grin reappeared as he met Gray's eyes without hesitation.

"No way!" He declared loudly, fire flickering in the back of his mouth as he added fiercely. "I'll stay awake till the very end, just you wait!" The Ice mage knew that he meant the words, but he also knew that there was no way that Natsu was going to be able to stay awakeâ€¦technically it was an unfair bet, but considering the idiot had been pushing himself too far and worrying Gray he deserved it, and his smirk grew as he leaned down so that he was level with Natsu's ears.

"Fine then the winnerâ€¦" The last bit was a whisper that only Natsu could hear, but it was impossible to miss the blush that spread across the Fire mage's cheeks a second later or the smug look on Gray's face as he straightened once more. From the grin on Happy's face the Exceed had caught a little bit of what had been said, and the two girl's shared a look before deciding that they probably didn't want to knowâ€¦well aware of how ridiculous the boys could be when it came to penalties.

"I guess that's a yes then?" Lucy asked, and Gray ginned and nodded, shooting a challenging look at Natsu as he heard the Fire mage growling softly as he struggled to contain his blushing.

"We brought snacks!" Happy declared as he gestured to the bags they'd brought with them, and they laughed a moment later as Natsu's stomach rumbled loudly as though in appreciation of that fact. Taunting the Fire mage about his never-ending appetite Gray helped Lucy take the snacks through to his kitchen so that they could get sorted, leaving Erza to set up the Lacrima play and trusting that between them she and Happy would be able to keep the Dragon-slayer on the sofa for the few minutes he would be gone. Although he knew that Natsu was less likely to misbehave now that his attention was on their bet.

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Barely ten minutes later they were all gathered around and ready to watch the movie. Lucy had claimed the spare armchair, complaining jokingly before allowing Happy to curl up with her and it had only been a moment later that she had summoned Plue to join them. Erza it transpired had been carrying a cushion and she was sprawled on it, her armour currently abandoned in favour of casual clothes, and she was leaning back against the arm of Lucy's seat so that they could share snacks. Gray had reclaimed his seat on the sofa, although this time Natsu was leant against his side rather than lying in his lap, although the Ice mage doubted that was going to continue for much longer and he had his arm draped around him, both as a hug and to be ready to catch him when he lost the fight against sleep.

"Ready?" Erza asked turning to look at them, her eyes softening as she caught the sight of the two of them cuddling and Gray stuck his tongue out at her before he knew what he was doing, although thankfully she didn't seem to mind.

"Ready," Natsu agreed with a smile, reaching down to steal some popcorn from the bowl that the Ice mage was holding and smirking as he whispered softly. "Are you ready to eat your words Ice Princess?" Gray didn't bother replying, supremely confident that he would be winning this bet and instead he stole a quick kiss before the Dragon-slayer managed to escape with a faint blush. Erza rolled her eyes at their shenanigans, shooting an amused look at Lucy who was squealing quietly at the display before reaching out to start the movie, at once they all fell silent and shifted their attention to the screen.

Gray couldn't stop himself from grinning as he felt the weight against his side already beginning to increase, although he carefully kept his attention on the screen, aware that the Dragon-slayer would feel his eyes on him and try and fight his sleepiness. Despite the fun of their bet, he really did want Natsu to get more sleep so that he would heal fasterâ€¦but he knew that the Fire mage wouldn't want to look at it like that, which was why the challenge was a perfect cover to get what he wanted. It was a couple of minutes later that Natsu's head fell against his shoulder, and this time he did glance down, smiling softly as he found the Dragon-slayer was already fast asleep with a stupidly content expression on his face as he nuzzled his nose against the Ice mage.

"It's my win Flamebrain," he murmured as he reached up to brush wayward hair out of Natsu's face, smiling at him for a moment, before carefully leaning forward and setting the bowl of popcorn down at his feet. Paying no mind to the others who had caught what was happening and were now paying more attention to them than the movie, he gently eased the Fire mage down until he was cradling Natsu's head in his lap, holding his breath for a moment as Natsu muttered sleepily under his breath before settling down once more. Once he was sure that Natsu was deeply asleep once more he carefully pulled the covers over the Fire mage, more to reassure himself than because the Dragon-slayer actually needed them.

Glancing up at the others he shifted in embarrassment at the soft smiles they were all directing at him, and it occurred to him that they had never truly seen him babying the Dragon-slayer, and he shot them a half-hearted glare, daring them to comment. Still smiling they turned their attention back to the movie, and he followed suit noting with a certain amount of smugness that they were just past the opening. Settling in to watch the movie, he found himself absent-mindedly playing with Natsu's hair, listening to the Dragon-slayer's soft breathing and feeling the ever present warmth that Natsu let off beginning to creep into him.

When the movie ended a couple of hours later Erza and Lucy were amused to discover that the Ice mage had dozed off at some point, his hand still entangled with Natsu's hair, and a silly smile playing on his lips as he hugged the Dragon-slayer against him. Unwilling to disturb the pair they quietly tidied up their mess and slipped out, although Erza was lamenting the fact that Reedus wasn't there to paint a picture of them looking so peaceful and cute for onceâ€¦resolutely ignoring the Celestial mage when Lucy teased her

for saying that after laughing at her for squealing at them earlier, although she didn't disagree with the Requip mage's idea and she was already plotting how they could get the boys into a similar settingâ€¦preferably without either of them being injured. Erza caught onto her train of thought, and they were bouncing ideas off one another as they left the flat, and Happy sighed as he shot a look back over his shoulder.

Good luckâ€¦Natsuâ€¦Grayâ€¦.

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Omake:

A fortnight later:

"What did Gray make you do anyway?" Lucy asked suddenly as she remembered that they had heard nothing more about their bait, turning to the fully recovered Fire mage who choked on his drink, turning bright red before glancing away. On the opposite side of the table Gray had perked up at the change of topic, dark eyes gleaming as he stared at his blushing boyfriend, a smirk spreading across his lips although he shook his head when she glanced at him in hopes of getting a proper answer and she pouted.

"I know!" Happy piped up with an evil grin, darting out of reach when Natsu reached out for him in a panic, clearly intending to try and silence him. However, the Fire mage's efforts were halted a moment later when Erza grabbed the Exceed instead, pulling him to her side and smiling down at him before shooting a warning look at Natsu, who hunched in on himself with a defeated expression.

"What did he do?" She asked with an evil grin, and Natsu groaned, letting his head sink against the table so that he didn't have to meet their gazesâ€¦well aware that there was no way Happy could resist this audience, and he felt himself turning redder by the minute.

"He had to get a temporary tattoo saying that Gray is always right."

"Is that it?" Lucy asked with a frown, glancing at the Ice mage in surpriseâ€¦that seemed far too tame for one of their bets, although she knew that Natsu wouldn't have been happy with a tattoo of that even though they were actually far more than rivals now. However, the smug expression on Gray's face told her that there was more to it, and she leant forward eagerly when it became clear that had decided to explain.

"Noâ€¦" Gray drawled, smirking as Natsu lifted his head just enough to shoot him a pleading look. "He had to get it on his bum. It was a private message just for meâ€¦although I did contemplate getting him to run through the guild butt naked like he did when were younger and he lost a bet."

"Stupid stripper," Natsu muttered under his breath, and Lucy frowned as she realised that he was getting redder by the moment and when she glanced across at Gray she found that he was wiggling his eyebrows at her, and she felt herself blushing as she realised that there was more to it than they were saying. Not helped by Happy bouncing up and

down with a massive grin on his face, a mischievous glint in his eyes as he glanced at the Dragon-slayer, before adding in a stage-whisper.

"They ddddddddid it!"

"HAPPY!"

End
file.